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Viking Industries to Manufacture Automotive Components at New Castle Facility; up to 184 Jobs to be Created

NEW CASTLE –A national leader in business services has announced plans to establish a new manufacturing operation in New Castle, helping Henry County continue to steer in a positive direction, Lt. Governor Kathy Davis confirmed today.

Viking New Castle, under contract with Delphi Corp., will produce steering columns in a 91,000 square foot manufacturing plant located at 499 E. 300 S. in New Castle, creating up to 184 new jobs for Hoosier employees. The project includes an investment of up to \$28 million for building improvements and state-of-the-art equipment, utilizing lean manufacturing techniques.

"This is another great win for the State of Indiana," said Davis, who leads the state's economic development efforts as director of the Indiana Department of Commerce. "Indiana has long been known for its strong automotive sector, but with the addition of projects like this, Indiana is fast becoming a hotbed of advanced manufacturing technologies. This is a perfect marriage of these two areas and we are proud of the partnership that has brought Viking to Henry County."

"Viking New Castle is proud to be part of this growing community and appreciates the support the county and state have given us to expand our business here," said Jay Schabel, President of Viking Industries.

The New Castle Company will be an independent spin-off of Viking Industries, which was founded in Solon, Ohio, in 1999. The company is a privately owned supplier of rubber, plastic, metal components and assemblies to the automotive industry, maintaining annual sales of more than \$100 million.

"Viking Industries is a product of the outstanding relationship that exists between the City of New Castle, Henry County and the State of Indiana," said Sherman Boles, Mayor of New Castle. "The City looks forward to working with the Henry County Commissioners, Lt. Governor Davis and the Indiana Department of Commerce to bring additional employment opportunities to the greater New Castle area in the future."

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“We are thrilled by this announcement,” said Henry County Commissioner Larry D. Hale. “Viking Industries is a great addition to our local manufacturing community.”

Competing with other states for the project, the Indiana Department of Commerce, Henry County and the city of New Castle worked together to secure the investment.

Commerce is awarding up to \$2.1 million in Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) tax credits and \$155,000 from its Skills Enhancement Fund (SEF). It is also offering the city of New Castle \$7,000 in Industrial Development Infrastructure Assistance to help offset the cost of a fiber optics line that will serve the facility. The state is working with the company to secure additional tax credits through Commerce’s Research and Development Credit and Hoosier Business Investment Credit programs.

In addition, Henry County has approved a ten-year Economic Revitalization Area (ERA) tax abatement on the building, improvements and new equipment.

The Indiana Department of Commerce awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in transferable and company-specific skills necessary to support these projects. EDGE tax credits are based on payroll and are awarded to companies that may otherwise locate in another state or country. The Industrial Development Grant Fund provides assistance to local units of government for off-site infrastructure projects in support of new business development.

Companies interested in learning more about these or other projects should contact their regional Indiana Department of Commerce office at 800-463-8081, or visit the Web site at www.indianacommerce.com.

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